

WASHINGTON, DC – Senator Paul Sarbanes and Congressman Steny H. Hoyer today, National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, introduced legislation in the House of Representatives and in the Senate which would grant a Federal Charter to the Korean War Veterans Association.

“On the day when we commemorate and honor the brave men and women who fought and gave the ultimate sacrifice during the Korean War, it is appropriate that we recognize their struggles and sacrifices on behalf of our grateful Nation,” said Sarbanes. “By moving forward and granting the Korean War Veterans Association this federal charter, we are acknowledging their commitment to the ideals of our democratic Nation and expressing our gratitude for their courage and their service.”

“Today we recognize and honor the 5.5 million Americans who fought and served during the Korean War and we commemorate the 52nd anniversary of the armistice agreement with North Korea,” said Hoyer. “Granting this Federal Charter, at no cost to the government, is a small expression of our appreciation for the extraordinary courage and sacrifice of our forces in Korea and will afford the Association the same status as other major veterans organizations,” Hoyer added.

Louis Dechert, President of the Korean War Veterans Association, today thanked Senator Sarbanes and Congressman Hoyer and said, “this important congressional action will take place on a significant date, July 27, the fifty-second anniversary of the temporary ceasefire which suspended the Korean War. We strongly support this legislation and are grateful to Senator Sarbanes and Congressman Hoyer for their efforts on behalf of the Korean War Veterans Association.”

The Korean War Veterans Association has over 18,000 members and is the only veterans organization comprised exclusively of Korean War Veterans and Korean Service Veterans. It is one of the few such organizations of its size without a Federal Charter. A Federal Charter would allow the Association to expand its mission and further its charitable and benevolent causes. Specifically, it will afford the Korean War Veterans Association the same status as other major organizations and would allow it to participate as part of select committees with other Congressionally chartered veterans and military groups. A Federal Charter will also help the Association gain Accreditation with the Department of Veterans Affairs which will enable its members to assist in processing veterans' claims.

The Korean War Veterans Association was founded and incorporated in New York State in 1987. It is the oldest and largest veterans group organized around common service in Korea.

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